

In the claims:

1. (Cancelled)
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18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) An apparatus for moving powder comprising:

a housing defining a chamber with a first powder inlet piercing said chamber and a first powder outlet piercing said chamber and a first inlet opening piercing said chamber and spaced from said first powder inlet and said first powder outlet;

a piston moveable in said chamber and having an outer diameter; and

a valve positioned adjacent said first inlet opening and moveable between an open position and closed position to selectively open and close said first inlet opening.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said chamber includes a first portion defining a first inner diameter and a second portion defining a second inner diameter wherein the first inner diameter is greater than said second inner diameter and said second inner diameter substantially corresponds to said outer diameter of said piston and an air passageway is defined between said outer diameter of said piston and said first inner diameter of said first portion.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said first powder inlet and said first powder outlet and said first inlet opening are defined by said first portion of said chamber.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21 including a first drive unit operably associated with said piston to move said piston between said first and second portions of said chamber.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 including a controller controlling said first drive unit and said valve.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 including a reservoir of compressed air in fluid communication with said valve wherein an air stream is moveable from said reservoir to said first portion of said cylinder when said valve is in said open position.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 including a throttle device disposed in between said reservoir and said valve wherein said throttle device being operable to adjust a pressure of said air stream.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said valve is moveable to a plurality of positions between said open and closed positions.

27. (New) A method for moving powder comprising the steps of:
defining a chamber with a housing wherein a first powder inlet piercing said chamber and a first powder outlet piercing said chamber and a first inlet opening piercing said chamber and spaced from said first powder inlet and said first powder outlet;
moving a piston having an outer diameter in said chamber; and
position a valve adjacent said first inlet opening wherein said valve being moveable between an open position and closed position to selectively open and close said first inlet opening.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 including selectively directing an air stream to the first inlet opening.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the selectively directing step is further defined as opening the valve to pass the air stream through the first inlet opening during the moving step.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the selectively directing step is further defined as opening the valve to pass the air stream through the first inlet opening during the moving step when the piston is moving away from the first powder inlet.

31. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the selectively directing step is further defined as opening the valve to pass the air stream through the first inlet opening during the moving step when the piston is moving toward the first powder inlet.

32. (New) The method of claim 27 including controlling a rate of the air stream with a throttle device positioned upstream of the valve.

33. (New) The method of claim 27 including the steps of:
defining a second chamber with the housing wherein a second powder inlet piercing said second chamber and a second powder outlet piercing said second chamber and a second inlet opening piercing said second chamber and spaced from said second powder inlet and said second powder outlet;
moving a second piston having an outer diameter in said second chamber; and
position a second valve adjacent said second inlet opening wherein said second valve being moveable between an open position and closed position to selectively open and close said second inlet opening.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 including moving the piston and the second piston in opposite directions with respect to one another.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 including the steps of:
drawing powder into one of the first and second chambers; and
ejecting powder from the other of the first and second chambers during the drawing step.

36. (New) The method claim 33 including concurrently closing the first powder inlet and the second powder outlet.

37. (New) The method of claim 33 including arranging the first and second chambers in parallel with respect to one another.